

REMARKS UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/981,257

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been examined. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are requested in view of the following remarks.

Preliminary matters

The Applicant gratefully notes the Examiner's acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, indicating that certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The Examiner has not yet indicated that the drawings filed October 18, 2001 have been accepted. Such indication is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,929,932 to Otsuki et al. (hereafter referenced as "Otsuki"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

The Applicant submits that Otsuki does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in Claim 4. For example, Claim 1 comprises a generating device for generating a program guide in which a plurality of program cells are arranged two-dimensionally based on a display priority level, a display mode, and program information.

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In contrast, Otsuki does not arrange a plurality of program cells based on a display priority level, a display mode, and program information. The program cells of Otsuki can be arranged based on program information, such as a category of programming (*see* col. 7, lines 39-51, and Figs. 7-8). The program cells of Otsuki can also be arranged based on a display mode, such as restricting the program cells by time, channel, or category(*see* col. 6, lines 55-65). However, Otsuki does *not* disclose arranging the program cells based on a display priority level, as presently claimed. The present specification defines a “display priority level” as “how each category is ranked in a group of categories” (page 17, line 25 through page 18, line 2). Otsuki makes no provision for ranking of categories. Though the Examiner asserts that col. 9, lines 22-32 disclose a display priority level, the Applicant must object to this characterization. The language cited by the Examiner relates merely to time and channel information, not to a category of programming preferred by the user, and as such, does not anticipate the display priority level as presently claimed.

In light of the discussion above, the Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Otsuki.

Claims 9-12

Since Claims 9-12 depend upon Claim 1, the Applicant submits that Claims 9-12 are patentable at least by virtue of this dependency, as well as for the recitations set forth therein.

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Claim 13

Since Claim 13 contains features that are similar to the features discussed above in conjunction with Claim 13, the Applicant submits that Claim 13 is patentable for similar reasons.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4

The Examiner rejected Claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,415,437 to Ludvig et al. (hereafter referenced as “Ludvig”). Since Claims 2-4 depend upon Claim 1, and since Ludvig does not cure the deficient teachings of Otsuki with respect to Claim 1, the Applicant submits that Claims 2-4 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claims 5-8

The Examiner rejected Claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,041 to Knudson et al. (hereafter referenced as “Knudson”). Since Claims 5-8 depend upon Claim 1, and since Knudson does not cure the deficient teachings of Otsuki with respect to Claim 1, the Applicant submits that Claims 5-8 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

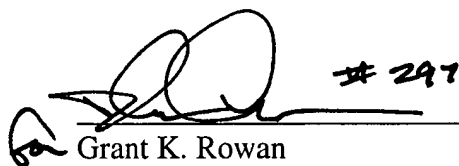
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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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